



## Children's Booklist 2025: Black Joy

### Chapter Books and Fiction



#### Isaiah Dunn is My Hero

by Kelly J. Baptist

Referring to his late father's journal for advice on how to be the man of the house, young Isaiah taps the support and ideas of two school friends who help him navigate rules and manage without superpowers.



#### Cookie Monsters

by Erika J. Kendrick

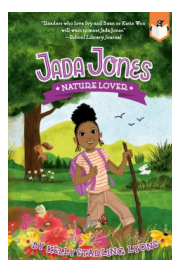
Determined to become Santa Monica's District Cookie Queen, 12-year-old Brooklyn Ace finds her dream going up in smoke when rich and spoiled Piper Parker arrives, until Brooklyn's family and friends rally behind her so she can end up a winner after all.



#### Rainbow Days: The Orange Wall

by Valerie Bolling

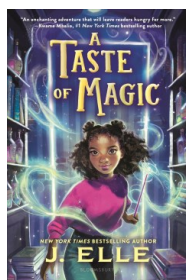
With her puppy Coco's help, Zoya gives her room a glittery makeover. This series is perfect for beginning readers.



#### Nature Lover

by Kelly Starling Lyons

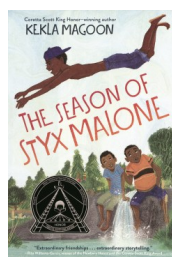
Jada is thrilled when she gets to go on an outdoor class field trip with her grandfather, a nature lover, as a chaperone, and she looks forward to showing him off to her friends--and showing him what she knows.



#### A Taste of Magic

by J. Elle

12-year-old Kyana just discovered she's a witch! Now she must learn a whole new world while keeping it all a secret from her friends. When her new magic school loses funding, she bakes up a plan to keep it open. Can she keep her magic a secret or will a taste of magic slip into her bake sale creations?



#### The Season of Styx Malone

by Kekla Magoon

Caleb Franklin and his younger brother, Bobby Gene, spend an extraordinary summer with their new, older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city.



#### Dragons in a Bag: The Enchanted Bridge

by Zetta Elliott

Jaxon and his friends are back in the magical real, Palmera, trying to convince Guardian Sis that magical creatures should exist in both world, but things might be even more complicated than Jax and his friends realize.



#### A Split Second

by Janae Marks

Waking up the morning after her birthday to discover six months have passed, Elise is unable to recall the last half year and must find a way to recover her past and escape this nightmare.

# Black Joy

## Chapter Books and Fiction



### Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky (Series)

by Kwame Mbalia

Haunted by the bus accident that ended his best friend's life, seventh grader Tristan Strong dreads a visit to his grandparents' Alabama farm before a bizarre living doll snatches away his friend's notebook and draws him into a world of burning seas, iron

monsters and exhausted black folk heroes.



### Kwame's Magic Quest

by Bernard Mensah

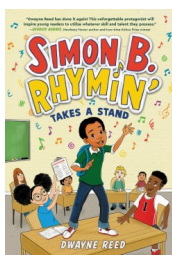
Excited to start magical training with his new friends at school, 8-year-old Kwame starts to worry when he can't access his magic powers, especially when his friend Fifi starts acting strangely, making him wonder if evil is afoot.



### The Lost Tooth

by Christine A. Platt

Frankie's first loose tooth might fall out when she is at the Kids' Journalism Conference with Mama, so Frankie and her toys hatch a plan to contact the Tooth Fairy, in a story that teaches young journalists the vocabulary of the trade.



### Simon B. Rhymin' Takes a Stand

by Dwayne Reed

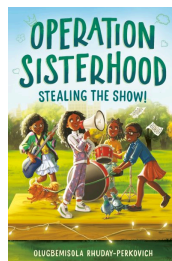
When Simon B. Rhymin' and his crew notice inequality in their school and neighborhood, they use rhymes to help bring their community together.



### It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit

by Justin A. Reynolds

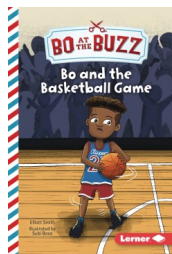
When the electricity goes out, 12-year-old Eddie and his friends set out to investigate what is going on when they make the startling discovery that they are the only ones left in their neighborhood--and perhaps the only people left anywhere.



### Operation Sisterhood: Stealing the Show!

by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

Sisters Sunday, Bo, Lee and Lil are bonded by their love of music and their musical babysitting band business, but after Sunday announces she's staging an original musical, she loses her creative mojo, so it's Operation Sisterhood to the rescue!



### Bo and the Basketball Game

by Elliott Smith

When his friend Shawn outshines him on the basketball court, Bo learns that being a team player is more important than being the star player.



### Starting from Scratch

by Jazz Taylor

Janie believes there's a best way to do everything. When she sticks to a schedule, she and her mom can tackle anything. But Janie's perfect schedule--and her life--are getting shaken up this year. Her new stepmom, Keisha, is moving in, along with her daughter, Makayla. Worst of all? Makayla brings a cat with her. And Janie hates cats.



### Mia Mayhem (series)

by Kara West

Invited to attend the after-school Program for In-Training Superheroes upon discovering that she has superpowers, 8-year-old Mia Macarooney struggles to balance her regular everyday life with the responsibilities of her secret identity.



### Inside the park

by Andrea Williams

Baseball-loving 12-year-old Timothy "Pumpsie" Strickland gets trapped inside the baseball stadium on the eve of the season's biggest game and realizes he's not alone, that foul plots are brewing, and it's up to him to save the team's postseason chances.



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